

Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council

Meeting Minutes – May 6, 2010

Attending: Janice Bourque, Srdjan Nedeljkovic, Paul Gilbert, Rodney Barker, Scott Gordon, Groot Gregory, Peter Meyer, Alderman John Rice

Srdjan called the meeting to order at 8:10pm

- Reviewed minutes from previous meeting. Barbara had discussed language with Srdjan that needed to be changed regarding Crystal Lake. Rodney also had some corrections to make regarding last month's minutes.
- Treasurer's report: Account balance is \$3,242.19 after payments to Verizon and a \$3,000 deposit from the Whole Foods promotion. The group discussed the status of the current phone service. Why do we pay roughly \$60/month for a phone at the Brigham House which is rarely used. Current tv service is provided by Comcast. Scott is going to look into consolidating the service and possibly eliminate services that we don't need.
- Scott took a few moments to review the normal annual expenses for the AC. Scott said he will put together a list of all these expenses for the AC to consider.
- Scott brought up the concept of the AC being an entity where local monies can be used for items such as park repairs. The example given was the removal of a large child's toy from the Hyde playground. In that case, since there were no funds to repair the item, it was removed and discarded. In the future, perhaps the AC can be consulted and funds/volunteer repair can be donated instead of removal.
- Groot suggested that we plan and print an annual budget for all to consider. Janice thought this was a good idea and said that the budget is something we could all consider and vote on. The group agreed.
- Janice explained the background of the funds received from the Whole Foods promotion and specifically, the beautification of the bridge. Paul volunteered to speak with Justine and figure out how much she will need for the bridge and when she will need it. The AC will then know how much is available for our use.
- John said that he believes that Justine would like the assistance of the AC in the bridge beautification project. He will follow up with her to get some guidance.
- Srdjan mentioned that some new trees have been planted on Lincoln St. Janice said that pear and Linden trees were placed by the Newton Tree Conservancy.
- Village Day: Hugh Starkey agreed to coordinate the road race again this year.
- John wants to print the next newsletter in ten days. Needs to be ready to send by May 20th. The newsletter will, of course, advertise the upcoming Village Day.
- The old VD booth no longer exists so the AC will buy a tent for around \$200 to use this year and in following years. Scott will research this.
- Discussed whether or not we will sell t-shirts this year. There is no old stock. Purchasing new shirts is around \$1,100. The AC discussed purchasing fewer shirts this year to keep costs and waste down. Paul will coordinate.

- Award and plaque is ready for Wes per Janice.
- Rides and amusements are ready per John.
- Music lineup is ready per Peter.
- Arranged volunteers for AC booth at VD. We will have t-shirts for sale, signage needs to be decided.
- John discussed the creation of AC's in other Newton communities, which he is spearheading for the Aldermen. This is a major focus of the new Mayor's administration.
- The League of Women Voters has taken a public position against the creation of AC's throughout the City. The feeling is that even though they have done this, they will not take their opposition in an effort to prevent the creation of new AC's.
- John has planned movies and music for every weekend from July 9 – Aug 27 (Only one date is currently available).
- John reviewed the plans for the Taiwan garden to be put in at the Hyde.
- Lake Ave update from Groot. Proposal was made, said that closing streets on Sundays throughout the Summer would be an experiment. One Sunday in each neighborhood. Second week of August would be a good idea. John said that he could ensure that things would get cleaned up in the end. Groot explained some of the concerns the residents have (trash, size of crowd, local control over event).
- Update of website: Groot has gotten the information from Janice and has begun the process of the update of the AC page on the city's web page. Still need to determine where the header for the AC will appear on the city's home page.
- Srdjan brought up the subject of the plans for the AC annual meeting (first annual). Discussed who we should invite, local aldermen and others that are supportive of the Council idea. Possibly pick a subject such as Crystal Lake. Peter said that meeting is meant to generate community interest and understanding of what the AC does and how people can get involved.
- Peter updated the group on the plans for the tree lighting.
- Janice reviewed to groups that would like to present to us next week. Safesidewalks which would like to improve safety of all side walks in the city (snow removal). Second group is the Southside shuttle
- Scott asked about any kind of pass system that has been used in the city to allow residents to get a certain number of passes to make them exempt from 2 hour parking regulations.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:05pm.